UNITED NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.47
25 January 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 47th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 28 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

later: Mr. BOTEZ (Romania)
(Vice-President)

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PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued)

The meeting was called to order at 10.30 a.m.

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (continued) (E/1994/L.27 and L.40)

The PRESIDENT invited the Council to resume consideration of draft resolution E/1994/L.27, entitled "Operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council", and draft decision E/1994/L.40, entitled "High-level meeting of the 1995 operational activities segment of the Economic and Social Council".

If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council wished to adopt draft resolution E/1994/L.27 and draft decision E/1994/L.40.

It was so decided.

Mr. RAMOUL (Algeria) asked that all previously adopted amendments and corrections to draft resolution E/1994/L.27 and draft decision E/1994/L.40 be incorporated into the final texts.

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN AND HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(d) HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS (E/1994/L.44)

The PRESIDENT introduced draft decision E/1994/L.44, entitled "Draft decision submitted by the President of the Council", concerning the dates for the 1995 regular session of the Commission on Human Rights and proposed that action on the draft decision be postponed until the next formal meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (E/1994/33-E/CN.17/1994/20, E/1994/L.45)

The PRESIDENT drew the council's attention to the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, contained in document E/1994/33-E/CN.17/1994/20, which had been mistakenly circulated before it was submitted to the Rapporteur of the Commission on Sustainable Development for review. Consequently, the Rapporteur of the Commission would have included some brief points in the following areas: changes of consumption and patterns of production; trade and environment; additional financial assistance; indicators and, given the discontinuation of the working group on technology transfer, the priority to be attributed to the question of transfer of technology.

Mr. FLORENCIO (Rapporteur of the Commission on Sustainable Development) read out the text of chapter VIII, entitled "High-level meeting", which was to be incorporated into the final version of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session, as contained in document E/1994/33.

(Mr. Florencio)

He said that once the new text was incorporated, the report would be in order.

The PRESIDENT asked whether any delegation wished to comment on the text to be incorporated into the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria) asked that the reference to Algeria be changed to "Algeria, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China".

Miss MONTAÑO (Observer for Bolivia) noted that any reference to July in the dates given in the document was incorrect and should be changed to May. She also requested that mention be made of the Minister for Sustainable Development and the Environment of Bolivia, who had also attended the 9th meeting held on 27 May 1994.

Mrs. BELMAR (Mexico) asked that, in the paragraph referring to the 9th meeting held on 27 May 1994, Mexico be added to the list of countries from which the Commission had heard statements by high-level officials.

Draft decision E/1994/L.45

Mr. BARAC (Romania), introducing draft decision E/1994/L.45 entitled "Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its second session and provisional agenda for the third session of the Commission" proposed the following editorial amendments to subparagraph (a) of the draft decision: to delete in the third line, the coma which followed the word "endorsed"; in the fourth line, to change the word "on" after "final resolution" to "of"; and in the fifth line, to delete the comma after "council". He urged the Council to adopt the draft decision as amended without a vote.

The PRESIDENT proposed that action on draft decision E/1994/L.45 be postponed until the next formal meeting of the Council.

It was so decided.

(f) NATURAL RESOURCES

(g) ENERGY

The PRESIDENT (Romania) said that in the course of informal consultations, it had been agreed to postpone consideration of sub-items 6 (f) and (g) to a resumed session of the Council.

The PRESIDENT said that if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Council agreed to postpone consideration of sub-items 6 (f) and (g) to its resumed substantive session of 1994.

It was so decided.

(i) STATISTICS (E/1994/29)

Action on draft decisions contained in the report of the Statistical Commission on its special session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twenty-eighth session of the Statistical Commission

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft decision contained in chapter I, section A of the report of the Statistical Commission contained in document E/1994/29.

The draft decision was adopted.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the Council take note of the following documentation under item 6: report of the Committee for Development Planning on its twenty-ninth session (E/1994/22); report of the Secretary-General entitled "Consultative meeting on a coalition of resources for science and technology for development" (E/1994/59); World Economic Survey 1994 (E/1994/65 and Corr.1); report of the Secretary-General on technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1994/69); report of the Secretary-General containing a preliminary version of the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development (E/1994/86); report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its fourth special session (A/49/223-E/1994/105); report of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its fortieth session [A/49/15 (Vol. I)]; report of the Population Commission on its twenty-seventh session (E/1994/28); report of the Secretary-General on the Thirteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (E/1994/74 and Add.1); report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (A/49/207-E/1994/92 and Corr.1); report of the Secretary-General on the Eleventh Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (E/1994/56); and report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Carter of Economic Rights and Duties of States (A/49/179-E/1994/82).

It was so decided.

REGIONAL COOPERATION IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (E/1994/L.42)

Mr. COHEN (United States of America), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.42 entitled "Middle East peace process", said that Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Estonia, Greece, Ireland, Italy and Poland had become sponsors. He looked forward to the resolution's adoption by consensus.

COORDINATION QUESTIONS (continued) (A/49/204-E/1994/90, A/49/205-E/1994/91

(a) REPORTS OF THE COORDINATION BODIES (A/49/16, Part I; E/1994/4, E/1994/19)

(b) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATICS (E/1994/98, E/1994/L.43)

(c) MULTISECTORAL COLLABORATION ON TOBACCO OR HEALTH (E/1994/83, E/1994/38)

Ms. THOMPSON (Director and Deputy to the Assistant Secretary-General for Conference and Support Services (for Support Services), Department of Administration and Management, said, with regard to the report on international cooperation in the field of informatics (E/1994/98) that it had

(Ms. Thompson)

been perceived that existing inter-agency coordination mechanisms in informatics were costly and unresponsive to the needs of Member States. The Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC) had asked for a review of the situation and had adopted the recommendation to establish an Information Systems Coordination Committee (ISCC) to replace the Advisory Committee for the Coordination of Information Systems (ACCIS). ISCC had begun its work and was currently making an evaluation of all ACCIS publications, including a cost-benefit analysis. Responsibility for any publications found to be viable would be taken over by the United Nations system.

As yet, there was no single focal point for information systems because resources limitations did not allow one person to be assigned full time to outreach to permanent missions. Each unit had, therefore, taken on one aspect of information systems. For example, Conferences Services was the focal point for the optical disk system. Obviously, the situation was not satisfactory. Internet Gopher server technology was available through UNDP, and delays were attributable to information security considerations. Full Internet service on the United Nations system was expected to be in place in New York by October 1994. Electronic mail was only one of the services that would be provided.

The question of equal access by developing countries to Internet suggested the need for a programme of action to be implemented by a project agency. Twelve permanent missions in New York were connected to the optical disk system and fight were on the verge of connection. Between 10 and 20 more were expected to be connected during the current biennium. At Geneva, eight missions were part of the system. The programme's expansion had been delayed by the need for solve internal communication and security problems, but the equipment had been ordered and site remodelling was under way. The electronic documentation system was popular among Member States, and many areas of the Secretariat would also be linked to it.

Mr BOTEZ (Romania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.43

Mr. KHAN (Pakistan), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.43, said that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had become sponsors. He hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

Draft resolution E/1994/L.38

Ms. BOHN (United States of America), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.38, said that Australia, Belarus, Canada, Japan Pakistan and Senegal had become sponsors. She hoped that the resolution would be adopted by consensus.

PROGRAMME AND RELATED QUESTIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS (continued) (A/49/16, part I; E/1994/88, E/1994/L.41)

Draft resolution E/1994/L.41

Mr. DOUJAK (Observer for Austria), introducing draft resolution E/1994/L.41, said that the sponsors believed that ways of enhancing the modalities of reporting in the economic, social and related fields should be proposed that recognized the need of each delegation to receive adequate information in advance, gave clear guidance to the Secretariat in the field of reporting, and allowed better use of resources within existing means. The draft resolution contained proposals that would control and limit the length of reports, allow for time constraints and financial implications, biennialize or triennialize requests for reports, and reduce the number of written reports by allowing the presentation of oral reports, where appropriate. A long-term perspective on the advantages of establishing a system of integrated reports was also proposed.

Mr. RAMOUL (Observer for Algeria), speaking on the behalf of the Group of 77, said that the Group shared the concerns expressed regarding the length of reports and the volume of documentation. That issue formed part of the ongoing restructuring process and, in view of its complexity, he proposed that it should be taken up by the Council at its resumed session.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.